

Improving Program Evaluation Methods

Assessment and evaluation of local TB programs enhances prevention and control efforts at both the state and local level. Program assessment and evaluation involves three levels of analysis to identify deviations from established standards:

- Aggregate analysis
- Individual case and cohort analysis, and
- Operational analysis.

All TB program prevention and control related activities should have the following:

- An appropriate evaluation plan
- Capability of measuring data to check program progress toward outcome and process goals/standards
- Capability of sharing data for external evaluation
- Cooperation with a network of other agencies (e.g. institutions, Wisconsin TB Program, other health departments, etc.)
- Shared responsibility for development of appropriate data sets for use as outcomes and process indicators.

Based upon the program assessment and evaluation, a plan for continuous quality improvement will be implemented and sustained. The evaluation steps will be repeated until all the standards are met and on an ongoing basis thereafter.

To improve program evaluation methods, the following goals have been established:

- Define and redefine process and outcome standards
- Measure performance toward meeting process and outcome standards
- Analyze evaluation results and modify intervention and strategies to meet process and outcome standards

Goal 13: Define/redefine process and outcome standards

OBJECTIVE 1:

The Wisconsin TB Program and LHDs will write evaluation plans that include both outcome and process standards for all TB prevention and control activities.

Action steps:

1. The Wisconsin TB Program will annually evaluate progress toward meeting Strategic Plan goals, using objectives in the Plan as outcome indicators, and verifying completion of action steps according to timeline.

2. The Wisconsin TB Program will develop a statewide performance evaluation plan that uses input from outside resources by December 2001. Evaluation will be done on an annual basis to examine performance and make recommendations.
3. The Wisconsin TB Program will review and revise the statewide evaluation based on the outcome of the previous evaluation.
4. The Wisconsin TB Program will identify what LHDs are doing well in TB control and, when needed, offer consultation and technical assistance.
5. The Wisconsin TB Program will assist LHDs in developing an agency-specific evaluation plan with agency appropriate outcome indicators (through individual and case cohort analysis). Examples include ensuring appropriate case management, contact investigation and follow-up for "B" notifications. This will be piloted initially with active programs in 2001 with a projected completion of all programs by the end of 2003.
6. LHDs, with Wisconsin TB Program assistance, will evaluate their TB program performance annually according to Wisconsin TB Program timelines.
7. LHDs will review and revise their evaluation plans based upon the outcome of the annual evaluation.

Goal 14: Measure performance toward meeting process and outcome standards

OBJECTIVE 1:

Statewide and local performance related to TB matters will be measured through data management mechanisms.

Action steps:

1. The Wisconsin TB Program will pilot a simple-to-use computerized database for LHDs to assist in the evaluation of local TB data by December 2000.
2. The Wisconsin TB Program will provide training and technical support to select LHDs in the use of a computerized database beginning in March 2001.
3. The Wisconsin TB Program will evaluate the results of the pilot program and determine further implementation action.
4. Each LHD will identify and implement a data management system that meets their needs according to the Wisconsin TB Program timelines.

5. Each LHD will annually evaluate their TB program to include both quantitative analysis of performance and qualitative indicators of strengths and weaknesses.
6. The Wisconsin TB Program will measure statewide performance based upon data provided by LHDs.

Goal 15: Analyze evaluation results and modify intervention and strategies to meet process and outcome standards

OBJECTIVE 1:

The Wisconsin TB Program, WSLH and all LHDs will use evaluation results to improve their TB control programs.

Action steps:

1. Perform individual case analysis, cohort analysis, and program analysis.
2. Identify deviations from established standards.
3. Prioritize deviations in terms of impact on overall program effectiveness.
4. Beginning with the top priority deviations, but eventually addressing all deviations from established standards,
 - Determine the prime causes of deviation from established standards,
and
 - Take action to correct these prime causes of deviation.
5. Continually re-evaluate using steps 1 - 4 above.